

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306031

USEEC - PARIS ALSO FOR OECD - GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

FOL TOKYO 19343 SENT ACTION BRUSSELS INFO SECSTATE GENEVA
DEC 16, 1977 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 19343

DEPT PASS ALL EC CAPITALS PRIORITY

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS-1

TAGS: EEC, ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: EC-JAPAN: USHIBA VISIT TO EC

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PAGE 02 STATE 306031

REF: A) BRUSSELS 18317, B) BRUSSELS 18599, C) STATE 297097

1. SUMMARY: DIRECTOR YUZUKI KAKU, MOFA TOLD EMBOFF THAT
USHIBA WAS GOING TO BRUSSELS TO EXPLAIN THE JAPANESE
POSITION AND BRIEF EC ON U.S. NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THE
EC IS VERY UNHAPPY AND JEALOUS THAT THEY WERE NOT CONSULTED
ABOUT THE TRADE PACKAGE FOR THE U.S. JAPAN INFORMED THE

EC THAT TRADE PACKAGE WAS OF GLOBAL INTEREST, NOT JUST U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. YUZUKI KAKU, DIRECTOR OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION, MOFA, TOLD EMBOFF DEC 14 THE REASON MINISTER USHIBA WAS GOING DIRECTLY TO BRUSSELS AFTER HIS DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON WAS BECAUSE OF A VERY STRONG REQUEST BY THE EC THAT EC INTERESTS SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE TRADE TALKS WITH THE U.S. THE EC WAS, HE SAID, "VERY VERY JEALOUS" THAT THESE TALKS WERE TAKING PLACE IN THE U.S. THE EC TOLD JAPAN, HE SAID, THAT THEY HAD A LARGER TRADE DEFICIT WITH JAPAN THAN THE U.S. AND HAD BEEN WAITING IN LINE MUCH LONGER. THEY ACCUSED JAPAN OF LISTENING MORE CLOSELY TO THE U.S. THAN TO ANYONE ELSE.

3. KAKU SAID THAT ON DECEMBER 1 AND 2, AND AGAIN LAST WEEK, THE EC COUNCIL DISCUSSED EC-JAPAN RELATIONS. AS A RESULT, HE NOTED, THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDED THAT JENKINS INTENSIFY CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPAN. THEN "WHEN USHIBA LEFT FOR WASHINGTON, THEY (EC) WERE TERRIBLY UNHAPPY AND WANTED JAPAN TO SEND A MISSION TO THE EC." THE EC WAS ALSO UNHAPPY THAT JAPAN HAD NOT CONSULTED WITH THEM ON USHIBA'S TRADE PACKAGE.

4. THE EC REACTION WAS EXPECTED, KAKU SAID. HE ADMITTED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 306031

JAPAN COULD PROBABLY HAVE DONE MORE TO PREVENT FRICTION WITH THE EC. FOR THIS REASON, THE GOJ IS SENDING USHIBA TO BRUSSELS, PROBABLY FRIDAY (DEC 16), TO BRIEF THEM ON HIS TALKS IN WASHINGTON AND TO EXPLAIN JAPAN'S POSITION. HOWEVER, KAKU ASSURED, HE IS NOT TAKING ANY TRADE PACKAGE FOR THE EC.

5. GOJ REACTION TO THE EC CRITICISM HAS BEEN TO ASSURE THEM THAT THE U.S. AND JAPAN WERE WORKING ON A PACKAGE OF GLOBAL INTEREST, NOT JUST U.S. INTERESTS. THE EC WAS TOLD JAPAN HAD BEEN WORKING PRIMARILY WITH THE U.S. BECAUSE IT IS A MAJOR ECONOMIC POWER AND TRADING PARTNER WHOSE ACTIONS AFFECT ALL THE OTHER NATIONS. JAPAN POINTED OUT, KAKU SAID, THAT THERE WERE MANY ITEMS IN THE TRADE PACKAGE OF MORE INTEREST TO OTHER COUNTRIES THAN THE U.S.

6. EMBOFF BRIEFED KAKU ON CONTENTS OF REFTEL C. HE SEEMED VERY INTERESTED AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. ACTIONS TO REASSURE EC OF INTERNATIONAL EMPHASIS OF U.S.-JAPAN NEGOTIATIONS. MANSFIELD UNQUOTE VANCE

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